

1. cationic polymer derived from at least one vinyl lactam monomer or alkyl vinyl lactam monomer (a),
2. cationic polymer derived from at least one monomer having the structure (b),
3. cationic polymer derived from one quaternized monomer have the structure (c),

and that the species are independent or distinct because the monomers have different structures. The Office Action concludes the cationic polymer derived from each monomer is distinct.

At the outset it is noted that the claims recite a cationic polymer derived from (a) at least one vinyl lactam or alkyl vinyl lactam monomer and (b) at least one monomer having the structure (I) and (c) at least one quaternized monomer having the structure (II).

In view of the telephone interview with the Examiner and in order to advance the prosecution of this application, applicants hereby elect the following species of cationic monomer:

monomer (a) structure at top of page 4 of the specification wherein P is C₆ alkylene,

R and R⁰ are C₅ alkyl,

monomer (b) structure in claim 1 wherein, R¹ is C₅ alkyl,

R³ and R⁴ are C₃₀ alkyl, X is NR⁶, and R⁶ is C₅ alkyl,

monomer (c) structure in claim 1 wherein R¹ is C₅ alkyl,

R³, R⁴ and R⁵ are C₃₀ alkyl, Y is alkylene of 16 carbon atoms and Z is phosphate.

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It is believed that the disclosed species of the cationic polymer in the genus are not patentably distinct.

In the event that the Examiner has any questions concerning this response, please contact Applicants undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Davis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent "W" and "D".

William J. Davis
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